

## German Attack at Douaumont Stopped by Curtain of Fire

**T**HE Germans in the region of Verdun are being hard held to the positions they occupy by the French. The fighting throughout the region is still vigorous, but it consists mainly of artillery duels.

The survivors, undaunted, resolutely stormed the French trenches and fought hand-to-hand in fierce battles at the outskirts of the village. The bitterest fighting was for possession of the road leading to Douaumont, the advantage of which was obvious. The Germans charged eight times there. The supreme effort was carried out by six regiments, advancing in close formation.

**GRUESOME EXECUTION**

BY FRENCH MACHINE GUNS

French machine guns did gruesome execution in the mass, and French infantry, held carefully under cover until the advancing force approached the trenches, leaped out to meet the onrush with cold steel. The fighting was finished in a few minutes. The Germans retired, leaving hundreds torn and tangled in the barbed wire defenses and thousands laid low by machine gun shots and bayonets.

As the battle proceeds, the strategy of General Petain, French commander of Verdun, is being compared more and more carefully with that of General Castelnau in the battle of Nancy. General Petain's withdrawal of the French from the Lorraine plateau was like General Castelnau's withdrawal to the plateau of Amance, away from the heaviest blows of the adversary to a dominating position, from which all efforts failed to dislodge him. French officers predict General Petain's strategy will have the same result, so that the Germans will be compelled to seek a decision elsewhere on the front.

French artillery officers who took part in the battle of Verdun estimate that during the first four days of the struggle the Germans discharged 2,600,000 shells, most of them of heavy calibers. The number of exploding shells by the French probably was as great.

Nothing like such an expenditure of ammunition has been known before, even in the Champagne attack. The whole theory of operations was to pulverize defenses at long range, drive out or kill defenders, and then sweep the ground by masses of rushes of infantry. The principle of the defense was to search out high pieces of the adversary with equally heavy shells, withdraw from demolished discipline works, and then, when those trench works were approached by the attacking forces on the run, to catch them with冥冥中待命的 artillery and machine-guns fire. At times the fire was suddenly suspended, and the attackers were engaged in hand-to-hand infantry clashes.

**GERMANS USE BURNING LIQUID PROJECTORS**

The Germans in their assaults are using several sorts of burning liquid projectors. One of these is in the form of a small tank which is carried on the back filled with a composition liquid which seems to be mostly kerosene. Attached to the nozzle is an igniting apparatus.

The liquid is projected by means of a hand pump. The radius of action of the oil depends on the skill and the physical effort of the man who projects it, but it is ordinarily from sixty to ninety feet.

Some French soldiers have been burned to a cinder by the flaming liquid. Other chemical weapons used by the Germans in this battle include asphyxiating shells, vapors which irritate the eyes and incendiary shells.

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